

## CITY CHIMES.

A paragraph now going the rounds of the press says it has recently been discovered in England that the statute book contains an act passed in the reign of George II. for "the suppression of profanity," and the law was put in force a week or two ago at Wesbech. Penalties are imposed according to the social position of the offenders. In the Wesbech case the prisoner uttered four wicked words in a public street, and, being a mere laborer, he was ordered to pay a shilling for each oath and 12 shillings costs. A thousand pities I think that such a law could not be found in our statute book, if it would tend to suppress the profane expressions one hears on our streets, from the lips of even tiny children, who are perhaps not to be blamed for using words they are accustomed to hear used by their elders. A shilling fine for each oath would be a most effectual way of ensuring the observance of the third commandment.

The Daniels Specialty Company give their first entertainment in our city on Monday evening next. The programme includes reel and olog dancing, juggling feats, music, ventriloquism, etc., etc. The company has been playing to large audiences in St John, and will no doubt meet with equal success in Halifax.

The joints and muscles are so lubricated by Hood's Sarsaparilla that all rheumatism and stiffness soon disappear. Try it.

The second concert of the Orpheus Club takes place next week. By special request Tennyson's "Lady of Shalott" will be given, and all who heard this as given by the club last year will rejoice that it is to be repeated. A good programme has been prepared for the coming concert, which will no doubt be fully enjoyed by all who attend.

I have been told that the Orpheus Club has decided to give an opera in the near future.

In the estimates for civic expenditure for the coming year the amount assessed for truant boys has been increased from \$480 to \$1600. This looks as though some more stringent measures are to be taken to enforce our compulsory school law, and to compel the dozens of children one may meet every morning on the street during school hours to attend the school provided for them. The truant officer, whose duty it is to look after the small boys who delight in "playing hooky," would needs be omnipresent to effectively fulfil his task, but if the increased sum be judiciously expended fewer juveniles will be found enjoying the coasting, skating and like sports when they should be taking advantage of the means for obtaining a fair education, which are within reach of every healthy child in Halifax. It seems to be utterly impossible to impress upon the young incorrigible the importance of sacrificing play for study, but it is a thousand pities that they should be allowed to neglect present opportunities for their good. All work and no play may make Jack a dull boy, but vice versa is apt to prove more disastrous to the future prospects of many of the youths who are growing up in this community.

No praise of ours can equal the sincere faith of those who know Johnson's Anodyne Linctament.

Monday was a decidedly disappointing day. To awaken on the morning of a day for which one has made pleasant plans and find the rain descending in torrents, is about as disheartening as any of the minor ills we have to bear. Those whose lengthy lists of good resolutions for the New Year included the firm intention to be more uncomplaining, cheerful and good natured, must have felt a strong temptation to break the vows they had vowed. In the afternoon the levees of Governor Day and Archbishop O'Brien were fairly well attended and quite a number of private calls were made. Several very successful at homes were held in the evening, and so ended the rainy holiday. We have had charming weather since Monday, but the absence of snow forbids some of the most enjoyable winter sports, and is much regretted.

A very pleasant entertainment was given at the Sailors' Home on Monday evening, which was largely attended by the seamen in port. The ladies, who show their interest in the welfare of the mariners in a most practical manner, and who have done and are doing much for their comfort and good, feel encouraged with the results of their labors, an important and noticeable result being a diminution of intemperance among the men who visit the home.

Among the many things in every day life that bring pleasure to the healthy minded adult, not least is the enjoyment derived from watching children at play in the open air. How the exultant yells of the boys and the shrill screams of the girls, as in their exuberance of joy they give vent to their feelings, bring back to memory days of long ago, when no care marred our enjoyment of the amusements participated in. They only once "pass this way," therefore let all freedom that is expedient be allowed them, but not at the expense of the necessary preparation for their life's work.

The first skating carnival is to be held at the rink on the 23rd of this month.

## TO PREVENT THE GRIP.

Or any other similar epidemic the blood and the whole system should be kept in healthy condition. If you feel worn out or have "that tired feeling" in the morning, do not be guilty of neglect. Give immediate attention to yourself. Take Hood's Sarsaparilla to give strength, purify the blood and prevent disease.

A concert under the auspices of the Oddfellows is to take place at the Academy of Music on the 12th inst.

The city schools re-opened on Wednesday with less than the average attendance. This state of affairs is caused by a number of cases of diphtheria, and the prevalence of whooping cough among the children.

The numerous guessing competitions which have been in progress during the past two or three months have ended, and the contents of the jars have been counted. Of course the winners feel themselves to have been very lucky, and those who did not win "never expected to hit the correct number," so every one is satisfied, especially the proprietors of the establishments, who have in almost every case made a good thing out of the craze.

There has been good ice for skating both on the lakes and at the rink during the present week, and many skaters have taken advantage thereof. In the days of long ago, when from Christmas until Easter one might have sleighing, snow-shoeing, tobogganning or skating as fancy dictated, the attention of our young people was divided, but now the lovers of out-door amusement in Halifax have but one of these typical Canadian winter sports afforded them, on account of our snowless winter season.

Rev. J. Norman Lee is organizing a rink party for Wednesday evening, the 18th inst., in order to raise funds for certain charitable purposes. The party is to be under patronage, and the full band of the Leicestershire will be in attendance.

The amateur dramatic performances at the Academy of Music on Wednesday and last evenings were very successful.

## THE FARMER AND POLITICS.

The prosperity of a farmer to-day depends more on the methods he employs than on governmental rule. Take seeds for an example: Many farmers who are alive to their own interests in other things are careless in buying seeds. They seem to think that a seed is a seed and there it ends. If there was more knowledge about seeds and greater care exercised in their selection, there would be richer crops and better returns.

Realizing this, D. M. Ferry & Co., the famous seed firm of Windsor, Ont., have embodied in their Illustrated Annual for 1893, much valuable information about seeds and their selection. It contains the knowledge gleaned from many years practical experience in the seed business, and gardening. Such a book issued by a firm of unquestioned reliability is of the highest value to every one who plants a seed. Although the cost of printing and embellishing it with beautiful illustrations has been great, it is sent free to any one making application to the above firm.

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## CHARACTERISTIC.

It is characteristic of the House to have only the very best, and never deal in what is known in the trade as cheap instruments.

It is characteristic of the House never to ask fancy prices (as some dealers do, and come down if they have to). Every instrument is marked in plain figures at actual selling price, which is always the lowest, consistent with quality and a fair living profit.

By these, and other strict commercial methods, I have built up one of the largest, if not the largest, retail Piano and Organ trades in the Dominion.

I was awarded a special diploma at the late Provincial Exhibition for the best exhibit of Pianos, consisting of CHICKERING, KNABF, BELL, DOMINION, MASON & RISCH, and NEWCOMBE, which means the diploma of the exhibition in the Piano line.

W. H. JOHNSON,

121 and 123 HOLLIS ST. - HALIFAX, N. S.